

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-16 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1 and 15-16 were allowed, and claims 4-14 were rejected. With this Amendment, claim 15 was amended and claims 4-14 were cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1 and 15-16 are at issue in the above-identified application.

I. 35 U.S.C. ¶ 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for advising them of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates for each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made. The Examiner was correct, however, in presuming that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made.

Claims 4 and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,413,833) as applied in paragraph 16 of the previous office action further in view of Figura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,355,536). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 4 and 13-14 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 and 15-16 were allowed.

II. 35 U.S.C. ¶ 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

Claims 5-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 5-12 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 16, 2003

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